WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Hike in DTC Fares

*25. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has recently doubled its fares;

(b) if so, the justification thereof;

(c) whether the losses in the DTC are mainly due to mismanagement, thefts and pilferages; and

(d) the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) DTC fares have been revised w.e.f. 28-12-1991.

(b) The increase in fares became necessary on account of the increase in the cost of inputs since the fares were last revised in Februry, 1986.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government have directed DTC to take adequate measures to improve their efficiency of operations and to avoid operating losses. The DTC have also, as an economy measure, imposed a ban on all future recruitments in D.T.C. Government are continually minotoring the performance of DTC with a view to increase its income and to reduce its cost of operations, enforce economy measures, preventing leakages with a view to increase revenue collection and reduce working losses. Rationlisation of routes is another measure which is undertaken by DTC for improving its performace.

Engagement of Foreign Companies in Domestic Gas Distribution

*26. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that some foreign companies have submitted proposals for participation in domestic gas ditribution net work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the policy of Government for allowing participation by foreign companies in marketing and distribution of domestic coocking gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received from M/s British Gas and M/s Gaz de France for equity participation in the Bombay City gas distribution project.

(c) A decision is taken on a case to case basis.

Permission for construction of Hotels on the Sea Beaches

*27. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the construction of hotels on the sea beaches at Goa, Lakshadweep, Andamans and Mahabalipuram;

(b) whether it is also a fact that permission for construction at these sites had earlier been refused on environmental considerations;

(c) if so, what new consideations have prompted Govetnment to accord the permission; and

(d) what guidelines Government have formulated to avoid arbitrary or ad-hoc decisions in individual cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) In 1981, keeping in view the protection of costal eco system, the Prime Minister issued a directive that no construction should come up within 500 metres of the High Tide Line (HTL). Thereafter there was no permission as such sought for and the matter was being dealt with by the State Governments. However, in 1985, having regard to development of beach resorts, promotion of tourism with built-in environmental safeguards and also actual dimensions of the beach, certain proposals for allowing beach resorts beyond 200 metres of HTL were agreed to in principle, in four specific locations, namely Goa, Trivandrum, Madras-Mahabalipuram and Puri-Konark with prior approval of Prime Minister.

In February, 1991, to rationalise the development activities in beaches vis-a-vis environmental parameters, the Government have issued Coastal Regulation Zone Notification. Under this, the Coastal stretches have been classified into four categories with graded restrictions thereon. The development of beach resorts/hotels in the designated coastal regulation zone areas are goverened by this notification.